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--BUT
THIS ONE'S
OFF TODAY'S
MENU.

CAPTAIN
UK???

YOU'RE
CERTAINLY A
SIGHT FOR SORE EYES,
MCQUILLAN. DIDN'T
THINK YOU WERE
GONNA MAKE
IT BACK.

ALL THINGS
CONSIDERED, I
ALMOST DIDN'T. IT
WAS TOUGH AND
GO THERE FOR
A BIT.

A PACK OF THESE
CHEEKY BUGGERS TRACKED
ME TO EARTH-616. WOULD'VE
BEEN THE DEATH OF ME IF I
HADN'T HAD A LITTLE HELP
FROM SOME FRIENDS.

SO, THE
MISSION WAS A
SUCCESS?

QUITE.





WELL, WELL,
WELL, IF IT
ISN'T 616.

CRUSADER
X.

THIS THE
BEST YOU
COULD DO,
LINDA?

ON SUCH
SHORT
NOTICE.

APPRECIATE
THE VOTE OF
CONFIDENCE,
MATES.
CHEERS.

THOUGH I SHOULD WARN
YOU, THINGS HAVE CHANGED
SINCE LAST WE MET. RATHER
DRASTICALLY, I'M AFRAID.

I NO LONGER
POSSESS THE
POWERS THAT
MADE ME CAPTAIN
BRITAIN. I'M JUST
PLAIN OLD BRIAN
BRADDOCK
NOW.

IT'S NOT THE POWERS THAT
MAKE THE HERO, BRADDOCK.
IT'S THE PERSON.

AND RIGHT NOW,
WE NEED ALL THE
ABLE-BODIES WE
CAN RALLY TO THE
CAUSE. WELCOME
ABOARD!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REST OF THE CORPS.
CRUSADER? CENTURION BRITANNUS? LADY LONDON?
ENFORCER CAPONE, EVEN...?

ALL DEAD.
FAR AS I KNOW,
CAPTAIN UK AND I
ARE ALL THAT'S LEFT
TO BATTLE THE EVIL
THAT MAD GODDESS,
ROMA, HAS
UNLEASHED UPON
THE LAND.

BUT THIS
HORRIBLE
BEHAVIOUR IS
SO COMPLETELY
UNLIKE ROMA.
WHY WOULD
SHE DO THIS?
WHAT DOES
SHE WANT?

JUST LIKE
THOSE
NIGHTMARES
I'VE BEEN
HAVING. BUT
I'VE NEVER
BEEN PRE-
COGNITIVE
BEFORE...

ALL CORPSMEN
SHARE A SPIRITUAL
CONNECTION TO
OTHERWORLD. ITS
PAIN IS OUR PAIN.
THAT'S WHAT'S
BEEN CAUSING
YOUR VISIONS.



THE SWORD
OF MIGHT...
EXCALIBUR.

ONE OF TWO
TALISMEN OF
POWER THAT
ONCE BELONGED
TO THE GOD
WIZARD, MERLIN.
THE OTHER, BEING
THE AMULET
OF RIGHT,
TOGETHER, THEIR
POWER COULD
SUNDER THE
OMNIVERSE.

WHEN I FIRST BECAME CAPTAIN BRITAIN,
MERLIN OFFERED ME BOTH THE SWORD AND
THE AMULET. I CHOSE THE LATTER.
IT SEEMED THE WISER DECISION.

IT WAS ONLY THE TRUE
MONARCH OF OTHERWORLD
MAY WIELD EXCALIBUR
WITHOUT
JEOPARDIZING
ALL THAT IS, IN
HER INSANITY,
ROMA BELIEVES
HERSELF TO
ACTUALLY
BE THAT
MONARCH.

BUT DIDN'T
MERLIN
INCORPORATE
THE AMULET
INTO BRIAN'S
COSTUME
THE SECOND
TIME HE
RESURRECTED
HIM?
Y'KNOW, TO
AMPLIFY HIS
POWERS?

AND
WHEN YOUR
HUSBAND
LOST THOSE
POWERS,
WHERE DO
YOU THINK
THEY WENT?
BACK TO THE
SOURCE.

IT'S SIMPLE PHYSICS,
REALLY. SINCE MATTER
CAN BE NEITHER CREATED
NOR DESTROYED, IT
HAS TO EXIST IN
ONE FORM OR
ANOTHER.

WITHOUT MY POWER TO
SUSTAIN IT, THE COSTUME
MUST HAVE REVERTED TO
ITS ORIGINAL STATE AND
BECOME THE AMULET
ONCE MORE.

THAT'S SOME
PIECE OF
JEWELRY.

AND NOW ALL WE
HAVE TO DO IS STOP HER
FROM INSERTING 'TAB A'
INTO 'SLOT B' AND WE'VE
SAVED THE WHOLE
BLEEDIN' BALL OF
WAX, RIGHT?

IF ONLY IT WAS THAT
EASY, BETSY. ROMA
ALREADY HAS THE
AMULET. SHE TOOK IT
WHEN SHE CLAIMED
MERLIN'S CASTLE.

WHICH
LEAVES THE
SWORD STILL
UP FOR
GRABS. IF WE
CAN FIND IT
FIRST...



IT SHOULD BE HERE SOMEWHERE. I PERSONALLY HANDED IT TO KING ARTHUR THE LAST TIME BRIAN AND I WERE ON OTHERWORLD TOGETHER...

THAT WAS BEFORE MERLIN'S DEATH. LEGEND HAS IT THAT UPON HIS PASSING, ARTHUR HID THE SWORD TO PREVENT OTHERS FROM STEALING ITS POWER, UNTIL HIS RIGHTFUL HEIR MIGHT COME TO CLAIM IT.

IT SUPPOSEDLY NOW RESIDES IN THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF THE FOREST OF A THOUSAND SORROWS, GUARDED BY A MIGHTY DRAGON. ONLY ONE MAN ALIVE CAN BEST HIM...



THE **TRUE** MONARCH OF OTHERWORLD...

PRECISELY. BUT NONE THAT HAVE TRAVERSED THAT WILDERNESS AND FACED THE GUARDIAN HAVE EVER LIVED TO TELL THE TALE.



BRIAN, YOU'RE NOT THINKING--?

THAT I'M THE NEXT KING OF THE WORLD? CERTAINLY NOT.

BUT OF US ALL, I'M THE LEAST POWERFUL. THE BIGGEST LIABILITY IN THE FIELD AGAINST THESE MONSTERS, AND THEREFORE, THE MOST EXPENDABLE.

IF ANY ONE OF US SHOULD GO IN SEARCH OF THE SWORD, IT'S ME.



BUT YOU'RE **NOT** EXPENDABLE! NOT TO ME!



SOMEONE HAS TO STOP HER, MEGGAN.



THIS HAS TO END.





THE FOREST IS VAST. IT'LL TAKE DAYS TO SEARCH
EVEN A FRACTION OF IT ON FOOT.

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT SEARCHING
ON FOOT, *eh*, WHITMAN?

WAY
AHEAD
OF YOU,
BRI.

STRIDER,
TO ME!

ZZZK!



HE'S GOT A
GOOD HEAD ON HIS
SHOULDERS. THIS ONE.
JUST LIKE ARAGORN,
BEFORE HIM.

pbbbbb!

IF YOU
NEED HIM, JUST
WHISTLE AND HE'LL
COME. WON'T
YOU, BOY?







HEROES.

HALF THE KINGDOM
LIES IN RUINS.
OVERRUN BY MY
PRECIOUS CHILDREN--

--THE
CAPTAIN
BRITAIN
CORPS LIES
DEAD AND
DYING--

--YET,
STILL THEY
INSIST ON
FIGHTING A
BATTLE THEY
CAN NEVER
HOPE TO
WIN.

FOOLS.



HAUPTMANN
ENGLENDE...

LEADER
OF THE
NEFARIOUS
LIGHTNING
FORCE.
SCOURGE OF
MONGREL
RACES EVERY-
WHERE.

HOW
EASILY THE
MIGHTY
HAVE
FALLEN.



STUBBORN TO THE
LAST, *eh?* NO MATTER.
I DON'T NEED YOU TO
TELL ME THE SWORD'S
LOCATION. I CAN JUST
TAKE IT FROM YOUR
INFERIOR MIND.

MY CHILD,
IF YOU
PLEASE...?

N-NO...
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING???



DANKE
SCHOEN.
HAUPTMANN...

YOU'VE
JUST HANDED
ME THE
UNIVERSE.



THE FOREST OF A
THOUSAND SORROWS,
I PRESUME.

A black and white comic panel showing a winged unicorn flying through a dense, misty forest. The unicorn is in the upper right, wings spread, looking towards the left. The forest is thick with trees and clouds of mist or smoke fill the lower part of the scene.



RIGHT.

A black and white comic panel showing a winged unicorn running through a forest. The unicorn is in the center-right, running towards the left. Its wings are spread, and it has a determined expression. The forest is dense with trees and vines. In the background, a waterfall is visible on the left side of the panel.

NOW
LET'S SEE
THE BLIGHTER
WHO'S ABOUT
TO HAVE
HIS FACE
BASHED
IN...



I SEEK
THE SWORD
OF MIGHT.
I SEEK
EXCALIBUR.

SORRY,
OLD SON,
BUT I'M
AFRAID
YE CAN'T
HAVE IT.



UNLESS,
OF COURSE,
YE'RE
WILLING TO
DIE F'R
IT...





WELL, NOW,
LOOK AT
THIS. AREN'T
YE THE
BOLD ONE.

YE DO REALIZ
I'M GONNA H
KILL YE?

THE FATE OF
COSMOS HAN
IN THE BALAN
GUARDIAN. I
TAKE MY
CHANCES.



E THAT
AVE TO
?

THE
GS
ICE,
'LL



RIGHT,
JUST SO
WE'RE
CLEAR...





THIS AIN'T JUST SOME
PIECE OF METAL WE'RE
SPARRIN' OVER, MATE.

YOU
GOTTA BE
WORTHY OF
THE SWORD OF
MIGHT. YE'VE
GOTTA EARN
EXCALIBUR.



NOW
C'MON,
OLD SON.
QUIT
MUCKIN'
ABOUT.

PROVE
YERSELF.



ONLY THE BLOKE
WOT UNHINGES OL'
BENEDICT FROM THIS
HERE BRIDGE IS GONNA
GET HIS SHOT AT
THE GLORY.

YE THINK
YERE HIM,
GUV'NOR?

WE'LL
SEE.

BLIMEY!

SPLOOSH!



I COULD
KILL YOU
NOW.

GET
ON
WITH IT,
THEN.

NO. I'M TRYING TO SAVE LIVES.
NOT TAKE THEM.



AND
THAT'S WHAT
MAKES YE
WORTHY...



SIRE.

LORD
BRADDOCK?

SINCE
ARTHUR HIMSELF
BADE ME WATCH
OVER THIS SWORD, I'VE
WAITED FOR THE
RIGHTFUL MONARCH
TO CLAIM HIS
BIRTHRIGHT.

THOUSANDS
I'VE SLAIN IN
THE NAME OF
EXCALIBUR, AND
THOUSANDS
MORE I'D
SLAY HAD YE
NOT COME
ALONG.



ME CHARGE
IS FULFILLED,
AND ME DUTY'S
DONE. I'M FREE,
AND I THANK
YE FOR THIS
BLESSIN'.



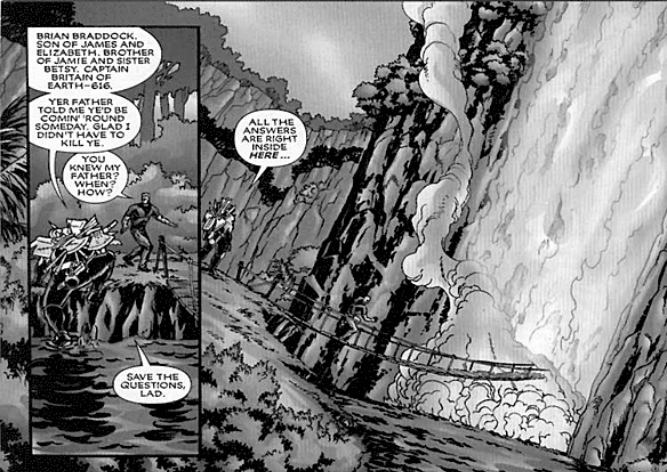
YER
HUMILITY
DOES YE CREDIT,
BUT YE ARE KING
OF OTHERWORLD.
IF IT WASN'T YER
DESTINY, YE'D BE
DEAD BY ME
HAND.



FROM NOW ON, CONSIDER
ME YER MOST HUMBLE
SERVANT... LORD
BRADDOCK.

WHEREVER
YE GO,
I GO.

YOU...
YOU KNOW
WHO I
AM?



BRIAN BRADDOCK,
SON OF JAMES AND
ELIZABETH. BROTHER
OF JAMIE AND SISTER
BETSY. CAPTAIN
BRITAIN-616.

YER FATHER
TOLD ME YE'D BE
COMIN' 'ROUND
SOMEDAY. GLAD I
DIDN'T HAVE TO
KILL YE.

YOU
KNEW MY
FATHER?
WHEN?
HOW?

ALL THE
ANSWERS
ARE RIGHT
INSIDE
HERE...

SAVE THE
QUESTIONS,
LAD.

OW! I CAN'T PASS
THROUGH THAT! I'LL BE
BURNED ALIVE!

TO A CRISP,
IF THAT'S WHAT
YE BELIEVE. BUT IF YE
HAVE FAITH? WELL,
THEN...THIS HERE FIRE-
WALL'S AS COOL
AS A SPRING
RAIN.

IF YE
HAVE FAITH.

ONLY
ONE WAY TO
FIND OUT, I
SUPPOSE...

THIS
COULD
BE A
TRAP

AYE,
THAT IT
COULD.



"FIREWALL,"
EH?

LIKE THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE SYSTEM
OF SOME GIANT
COMPUTER.



OR A
SHRINE.

THE
UNIFORM OF
THE ORIGINAL
CAPTAIN BRITAIN
CORPS.



JUST LIKE THE
ONE WORN BY
YOUR DEAR,
OLD DAD.

OH MY
GOD...



HELLO,
SON.

TO BE CONTINUED...